

The Sultan's School

P.O Box: 665, Postal Code: 121

Sultanate of Oman

Tel: (968) 24536777, Fax: (968) 24536997

Email: info@sultansschool.org

Website: sultansschool.org



مَدْرَسَةُ السُّلْطَانِ

ص.ب : ٦٦٥ ، السيب - الرمز البريدي : ١٢١

سلطنة عُمان

هاتف : ٢٤٥٣٦٧٧٧ (+٩٦٨) ، فاكس : ٢٤٥٣٦٩٩٧ (٩٦٨)

البريد الإلكتروني: info@sultansschool.org

موقع الإنترنت: www.sultansschool.org

30th August 2020

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to all new and returning students and parents/guardians to the 2020-2021 academic year at The Sultan's School. I would like to start by congratulating our class of 2020 who achieved an IB Diploma pass rate of 96%. This is an amazing achievement given the unprecedented conditions we had to deal with last year. We also, once again, saw a pleasing improvement with our IGCSE results, with several students achieving A*s and As.

Joining our secondary school this year is Mr Glyn Richards and Mr William Fullerton who will be teaching Mathematics; Mr Jamil Rawat who is teaching Science and Biology; Dr Mary O'Gorman who is our Head of Science and teaching Science and Biology; Ms Laura Wilson who is teaching English; Mr John Binns who is preparing the school to be able to offer Design and Technology in the 2021-2022 school year. We also welcome back Ms Lauren to the English Department. Please join us in welcoming them to The Sultan's School and Oman.

The Sultan's School Secondary Team look forward to the continued support from parents and guardians as we all work together to encourage and support our students in their pursuit of excellence. We strive for success in Academics, the Arts, Sports and as good citizens of their own community and the larger global community.

As per the Ministry of Education announcement we are allowed to start our online learning program from Tuesday 1st September. To aide students to settle and adjust to online learning this will be phased across the first week of school as follows;

- Year 11 and 13 start online learning on Tuesday 1st September.
- Year 12 will have Teams interviews with Mr Charles and Dr Adnan starting Tuesday 1st September. They will have an online induction day on Sunday 6th and lessons from Monday 7th.
- The IGCSE coordinator will be available for any queries regarding options and start of IGCSEs for Year 10 during Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September. There will be Teams meetings with Mr Mohammed and HR Teachers during the morning of Thursday 4th and online lessons will commence from Sunday 6th.
- Year 7 and students new to Year 8 & 9 will have Teams meetings with the ICT Department on Tuesday 1st, Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd September to set up email and Firefly and be taught how to use them.
- Years 7, 8 & 9 will have half days (mornings) on Sunday 6th and Monday 7th September.
- Full timetables will start on Tuesday 8th September

Further instructions to parents of students new to the Secondary School will be emailed out this week. **Returning students will need to login to their school email and Firefly accounts straight away.**

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There are now several procedures that need to be followed and students and parents should be aware of this. They are;

- Lessons and Homeroom will follow the regular school timetable (available on Firefly). Attendance to Virtual lessons is **compulsory** just like a regular lesson and the register **must** be taken.
- Once attendance has been taken the lesson can commence and 'formal teaching' should be videoed using Teams. The video can be switched off if there is no discussion or 'formal' teaching but should be started again if 'formal' teaching starts. These videos will be saved to the chat in the meeting automatically. They can then be reviewed at any time by students.
- **Teachers will be available online for every timetabled lesson.** Students will be able to ask questions during every lesson, just like they would in class.
- If students are working 'off screen' they should remain close to the computer to answer any questions or be called back into teaching.
- PowerPoint, external videos, screencasts etc may be used as part of the lesson.
- **All tasks will be set through Firefly.** Any feedback and/or grades will be sent to students through Firefly.
- Bandwidth permitting, students should have their cameras on for the whole lesson. Students are not permitted to video the lesson under any circumstance. If student cameras are switched off, teachers may call on students or have them 'raise their hand' to ensure that they are there.
- Students should be working at a desk in a quiet location and **must be in school uniform.**

We will be launching the Parental Portal for Firefly to enable Parents to follow their child's progress. To do this you must have an up-to-date email address in our system. Further instructions and training will be shared with parents later.

Although we would prefer to be able to see your children in person, I am excited about the online program learning program we will be offering to your children. I am sure that you will have many questions, but my staff and I will ensure that you and your children have the support you need to access the program successfully.

We will be holding our usual meet and greet sessions through an online platform. Dates and instructions will follow shortly.

As we have all discovered, we are living in a time when things can change very quickly. We will update you of any changes in events and procedures as we meet them

As you may know, I have an open door policy and if you ever have a quick question relating to your son, daughter or the school, please do not hesitate to email me. If you wish to discuss something in more detail please contact Zahida Al-Zadjaly to make an appointment for me to call you.

I would like to thank you in advance for your help and support as we start a school year very differently to the way things have been done in the past.

Yours

Mr Paul Toomer
Head of Secondary